



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 893

LCO No. 4175



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN STATUTES
REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Person" means (A) any individual named in a record,
5 maintained by the department, who (i) is presently or at any prior time
6 was a ward of or committed to the commissioner for any reason; (ii)
7 otherwise received services, voluntarily or involuntarily, from the
8 department; or (iii) is presently or was at any prior time the subject of
9 an investigation by the department; (B) a parent whose parental rights
10 have not been terminated or current guardian of an individual
11 described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, if such individual is
12 a minor; or (C) the authorized representative of an individual
13 described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, if such individual is
14 deceased;

15 (2) "Attorney" means the licensed attorney authorized to assert the
16 confidentiality of or right of access to records of a person;

17 (3) "Authorized representative" means a parent, guardian, guardian
18 ad litem, attorney, conservator or other individual authorized to assert
19 the confidentiality of or right of access to records of a person;

20 (4) "Consent" means permission given in writing by a person, such
21 person's attorney or authorized representative to disclose specified
22 information, within a limited time period, regarding the person to
23 specifically identified individuals or entities;

24 (5) "Records" means information created or obtained in connection
25 with the department's child protection activities or other activities
26 related to a child while in the care or custody of the department,
27 including information in the registry of reports to be maintained by the
28 commissioner pursuant to section 17a-101k;

29 (6) "Disclose" means (A) to provide an oral summary of records
30 maintained by the department to an individual, agency, corporation or
31 organization, or (B) to allow an individual, agency, corporation or
32 organization to review or obtain copies of such records in whole, part
33 or summary form;

34 (7) "Near fatality" means an act that places a child in serious or
35 critical condition.

36 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1-210, 1-211 or 1-213,
37 records maintained by the department shall be confidential and shall
38 not be disclosed, unless the department receives written consent from
39 the person or as provided in this section, section 17a-101g or section
40 17a-101k. Any unauthorized disclosure shall be punishable by a fine of
41 not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more
42 than one year, or both. Any employee of the department who in the
43 ordinary course of such person's employment has reasonable cause to
44 suspect or believe that another employee has engaged in the

45 unauthorized disclosure of records shall report in writing such
46 unauthorized disclosure of records to the commissioner. The report
47 shall include the name of the person disclosing the information and the
48 nature of the information disclosed and to whom it was disclosed, if
49 known.

50 (c) Records that (1) contain privileged communications, or (2) are
51 confidential pursuant to any federal law or regulation shall not be
52 disclosed except as authorized by law.

53 (d) Any information disclosed from a person's record shall not be
54 further disclosed to another individual or entity without the written
55 consent of the person, except (1) pursuant to section 19a-80 or 19a-80f,
56 provided such disclosure is otherwise permitted pursuant to
57 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, (2) pursuant to the order of a
58 court of competent jurisdiction, or (3) as otherwise provided by law.

59 (e) The commissioner shall, upon written request, disclose the
60 following information concerning agencies licensed by the Department
61 of Children and Families, except foster care parents, relatives of the
62 child who are licensed to provide foster care or prospective adoptive
63 families: (1) The name of the licensee; (2) the date the original license
64 was issued; (3) the current status of the license; (4) whether an agency
65 investigation or review is pending or has been completed; and (5) any
66 licensing action taken by the department at any time during the period
67 such license was issued and the reason for such action, provided
68 disclosure of such information will not jeopardize a pending
69 investigation.

70 (f) The name of any individual who reports suspected abuse or
71 neglect of a child or youth or cooperates with an investigation of child
72 abuse or neglect shall be kept confidential upon request or upon
73 determination by the department that disclosure of such information
74 may be detrimental to the safety or interests of the individual, except
75 the name of any such individual shall be disclosed pursuant to

76 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section to
77 (1) an employee of the department for reasons reasonably related to
78 the business of the department; (2) a law enforcement officer for
79 purposes of investigating (A) abuse or neglect of a child or youth, or
80 (B) an allegation that such individual falsely reported the suspected
81 abuse or neglect of a child or youth; (3) a state's attorney for purposes
82 of investigating or prosecuting (A) abuse or neglect of a child or youth,
83 or (B) an allegation that such individual falsely reported the suspected
84 abuse or neglect of a child or youth; (4) an assistant attorney general or
85 other legal counsel representing the department; (5) a judge of the
86 Superior Court and all necessary parties in a court proceeding
87 pursuant to section 17a-112 or 46b-129, or a criminal prosecution
88 involving child abuse or neglect; (6) a state child care licensing agency;
89 or (7) the executive director of any institution, school or facility or
90 superintendent of schools pursuant to section 17a-101i, as amended by
91 this act.

92 (g) The department shall disclose records, subject to subsections (b)
93 and (c) of this section, without the consent of the person who is the
94 subject of the record, to:

95 (1) The person named in the record or such person's authorized
96 representative, provided such disclosure shall be limited to
97 information (A) contained in the record about such person or about
98 such person's biological or adoptive minor child, if such person's
99 parental rights to such child have not been terminated; and (B)
100 identifying an individual who reported abuse or neglect of the person,
101 including any tape recording of an oral report pursuant to section 17a-
102 103, if a court determines that there is reasonable cause to believe the
103 reporter knowingly made a false report or that the interests of justice
104 require disclosure;

105 (2) An employee of the department for any purpose reasonably
106 related to the performance of such employee's duties;

107 (3) A guardian ad litem or attorney appointed to represent a child or
108 youth in litigation affecting the best interests of the child or youth;

109 (4) An attorney representing a client in the superior court for
110 juvenile matters or the Family Division of the Superior Court,
111 provided if such records do not pertain to such attorney's client, such
112 records shall not be further disclosed to another individual or entity by
113 such attorney or client except pursuant to the order of a court of
114 competent jurisdiction;

115 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) The Attorney General, any assistant attorney general or any
116 other legal counsel retained to represent the department during the
117 course of a legal proceeding involving the department or an employee
118 of the department;

119 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) The Child Advocate or the Child Advocate's designee;

120 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) The Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's
121 designee for purposes of ensuring competent representation by the
122 attorneys with whom the Chief Public Defender contracts to provide
123 legal and guardian ad litem services to the subjects of such records and
124 for ensuring accurate payments for services rendered by such
125 attorneys;

126 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) The Chief State's Attorney or the Chief State's Attorney's
127 designee for purposes of investigating or prosecuting (A) an allegation
128 related to child abuse or neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual
129 made a false report of suspected child abuse or neglect, or (C) an
130 allegation that a mandated reporter failed to report suspected child
131 abuse or neglect in accordance with section 17a-101a, provided such
132 prosecuting authority shall have access to records of a child charged
133 with the commission of a delinquent act, who is not being charged
134 with an offense related to child abuse, only while the case is being
135 prosecuted and after obtaining a release;

136 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) A state or federal law enforcement officer for purposes of

137 investigating (A) an allegation related to child abuse or neglect, (B) an
138 allegation that an individual made a false report of suspected child
139 abuse or neglect, or (C) an allegation that a mandated reporter failed to
140 report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with section 17a-
141 101a;

142 [(9)] (10) A foster or prospective adoptive parent, if the records
143 pertain to a child or youth currently placed with the foster or
144 prospective adoptive parent, or a child or youth being considered for
145 placement with the foster or prospective adoptive parent, and the
146 records are necessary to address the social, medical, psychological or
147 educational needs of the child or youth, provided no information
148 identifying a biological parent is disclosed without the permission of
149 such biological parent;

150 [(10)] (11) The Governor, when requested in writing in the course of
151 the Governor's official functions, the Legislative Program Review and
152 Investigations Committee, the joint standing committee of the General
153 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, the
154 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
155 of matters relating to the judiciary or the joint standing committee of
156 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
157 children, when requested in writing by any of such committees in the
158 course of such committee's official functions, and upon a majority vote
159 of such committee, provided no name or other identifying information
160 is disclosed unless such information is essential to the gubernatorial or
161 legislative purpose;

162 [(11)] (12) The Office of Early Childhood for the purpose of (A)
163 determining the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility
164 licensed pursuant to section 19a-77, 19a-80 or 19a-87b; (B) determining
165 the suitability of such person for licensure; (C) an investigation
166 conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f; (D) notifying the office when
167 the Department of Children and Families places an individual licensed
168 or certified by the office on the child abuse and neglect registry

169 pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (E) notifying the office when the
170 Department of Children and Families possesses information regarding
171 an office regulatory violation committed by an individual licensed or
172 certified by the office;

173 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) The Department of Developmental Services, to allow said
174 department to determine eligibility, facilitate enrollment and plan for
175 the provision of services to a child who is a client of said department
176 and who is applying to enroll in or is enrolled in said department's
177 behavioral services program. At the time that a parent or guardian
178 completes an application for enrollment of a child in the Department of
179 Developmental Services' behavioral services program, or at the time
180 that said department updates a child's annual individualized plan of
181 care, said department shall notify such parent or guardian that the
182 Department of Children and Families may provide records to the
183 Department of Developmental Services for the purposes specified in
184 this subdivision without the consent of such parent or guardian;

185 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) Any individual or entity for the purposes of identifying
186 resources that will promote the permanency plan of a child or youth
187 approved by the court pursuant to sections 17a-11, 17a-111b, 46b-129
188 and 46b-141;

189 ~~[(14)]~~ (15) A state agency that licenses or certifies [an individual] a
190 person to educate, ~~[or]~~ care for or provide services to children or
191 [youth] youths;

192 ~~[(15)]~~ (16) A judge or employee of a Probate Court who requires
193 access to such records in order to perform such judge's or employee's
194 official duties;

195 ~~[(16)]~~ (17) A judge of the Superior Court for purposes of
196 determining the appropriate disposition of a child convicted as
197 delinquent or a child who is a member of a family with service needs;

198 ~~[(17)]~~ (18) A judge of the Superior Court in a criminal prosecution

199 for purposes of in camera inspection whenever (A) the court has
200 ordered that the record be provided to the court; or (B) a party to the
201 proceeding has issued a subpoena for the record;

202 ~~[(18)]~~ [(19)] A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in
203 a family violence proceeding when such records concern family
204 violence with respect to the child who is the subject of the proceeding
205 or the parent of such child who is the subject of the proceeding;

206 ~~[(19)]~~ [(20)] The Auditors of Public Accounts, or their representative,
207 provided no information identifying the subject of the record is
208 disclosed unless such information is essential to an audit conducted
209 pursuant to section 2-90;

210 ~~[(20)]~~ [(21)] A local or regional board of education, provided the
211 records are limited to educational records created or obtained by the
212 state or Connecticut Unified School District #2, established pursuant to
213 section 17a-37;

214 ~~[(21)]~~ [(22)] The superintendent of schools for any school district for
215 the purpose of determining the suitability of a person to be employed
216 by the local or regional board of education for such school district
217 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-221d;

218 ~~[(22)]~~ [(23)] The Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of
219 criminal history records checks pursuant to subsection (e) of section
220 14-44, provided information disclosed pursuant to this subdivision
221 shall be limited to information included on the Department of
222 Children and Families child abuse and neglect registry established
223 pursuant to section 17a-101k, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-
224 101g and 17a-101k concerning the nondisclosure of findings of
225 responsibility for abuse and neglect;

226 ~~[(23)]~~ [(24)] The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
227 for the purpose of treatment planning for young adults who have
228 transitioned from the care of the Department of Children and Families;

229 [(24)] (25) The superintendent of a public school district or the
230 executive director or other head of a public or private institution for
231 children providing care for children or a private school (A) pursuant to
232 sections 17a-11, 17a-101b, 17a-101c, 17a-101i, as amended by this act,
233 17a-111b, 46b-129 and 46b-141, or (B) when the Department of
234 Children and Families places an individual employed by such
235 institution or school on the child abuse and neglect registry pursuant
236 to section 17a-101k;

237 [(25)] (26) The Department of Social Services for the purpose of (A)
238 determining the suitability of a person for payment from the
239 Department of Social Services for providing child care; (B) promoting
240 the health, safety and welfare of a child or youth receiving services
241 from either department; or (C) investigating allegations of fraud
242 provided no information identifying the subject of the record is
243 disclosed unless such information is essential to any such
244 investigation;

245 [(26)] (27) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
246 Branch, to allow the division to determine the supervision and
247 treatment needs of a child or youth, and provide appropriate
248 supervision and treatment services to such child or youth, provided
249 such disclosure shall be limited to information that identifies the child
250 or youth, or a member of such child's or youth's immediate family, as
251 being or having been (A) committed to the custody of the
252 Commissioner of Children and Families as delinquent, (B) under the
253 supervision of the Commissioner of Children and Families, or (C)
254 enrolled in the voluntary services program operated by the
255 Department of Children and Families;

256 [(27)] (28) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial
257 Branch for the purpose of sharing common case records to track
258 recidivism of juvenile offenders; [and]

259 [(28)] (29) The birth-to-three program's referral intake office for the

260 purpose of (A) determining eligibility of, (B) facilitating enrollment for,
261 and (C) providing services to (i) substantiated victims of child abuse
262 and neglect with suspected developmental delays, and (ii) newborns
263 impacted by withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug
264 exposure; [.] and

265 (30) The Department of Public Health for the purpose of notification
266 when the Commissioner of Children and Families places an individual
267 licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health on the child
268 abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k.

269 (h) The department may, subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this
270 section, disclose records without the consent of the person who is the
271 subject of the record, to:

272 (1) An employee or former employee of the department or such
273 employee or former employee's authorized representative for purposes
274 of participating in any court, administrative or disciplinary
275 proceeding, provided such disclosure shall be limited to records that
276 are necessary to the proceeding, as determined by the department;

277 (2) Multidisciplinary teams, as described in section 17a-106a;

278 (3) A provider of professional services for a child, youth or parent
279 referred to such provider, provided such disclosure is limited to
280 information necessary to provide services to the child, youth or parent;

281 (4) An individual or agency under contract with the department for
282 the purposes of identifying and assessing a potential foster or adoptive
283 home or visiting resource for a child or youth, provided no
284 information identifying a biological parent of a child or youth is
285 disclosed without the permission of such biological parent;

286 (5) A physician examining a child with respect to whom abuse or
287 neglect is suspected and who is authorized pursuant to section 17a-
288 101f to keep the child in the custody of a hospital when such physician

289 requires the information in a record of the department to determine
290 whether to keep the child in protective custody;

291 (6) An individual who reports child abuse or neglect pursuant to
292 sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, or section 17a-103, who made
293 a report of abuse or neglect, provided the information disclosed is
294 limited to (A) the status of the investigation conducted pursuant to
295 section 17a-101g resulting from the individual's report; and (B) in
296 general terms, the action taken by the department as a result of such
297 investigation;

298 (7) An individual or organization engaged in the business of
299 medical, psychological or psychiatric diagnosis and treatment and who
300 is treating [an individual who has perpetrated abuse or neglect, as
301 determined in an investigation conducted pursuant to section 17a-
302 101g, or who is unwilling or unable to protect a child or youth from
303 abuse or neglect, as determined in an investigation conducted
304 pursuant to section 17a-101g, when] a person, provided the
305 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, determines that the
306 disclosure is necessary to accomplish the objectives of diagnosis or
307 treatment;

308 (8) A court or public agency in another state or a federally
309 recognized Indian tribe, that is responsible for investigating child
310 abuse or neglect, preventing child abuse and neglect or providing
311 services to families at risk for child abuse or neglect, for the purpose of
312 such investigation, prevention or providing services to such families;

313 (9) An individual conducting bona fide research, provided no
314 information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless (A)
315 such information is essential to the purpose of the research; and (B) the
316 department has given written approval for the use of such
317 information;

318 (10) An individual or agency involved in the collection of fees for
319 services, provided such information is limited to the name and address

320 of the person who received the services and the fees for services,
321 except as provided in section 17b-225. In cases where a dispute arises
322 over such fees or claims or where additional information is needed to
323 substantiate the fee or claim, the Department of Children and Families
324 may disclose the following: (A) That the person was, in fact, provided
325 services by the department; (B) the dates and duration of such services;
326 and (C) a general description of the types of services, including
327 evidence that a service or treatment plan exists and has been carried
328 out and evidence to substantiate the necessity for admission and
329 length of stay in an institution or facility;

330 (11) A law enforcement officer or state's attorney if there is
331 reasonable cause to believe that (A) a child or youth is being abused or
332 neglected or at risk of being abused or neglected as a result of any
333 suspected criminal activity by any individual, or (B) an employee of
334 the department is being threatened or harassed or has been assaulted
335 by a client or coworker;

336 (12) Any individual interviewed as part of an investigation
337 conducted pursuant to section 17a-101g, who is not otherwise entitled
338 to such information, provided such disclosure is limited to: (A) The
339 general nature of the allegations contained in the reports; (B) the
340 identity of the child or youth alleged to have been abused or neglected;
341 and (C) information necessary to effectively conduct the investigation;

342 (13) Any individual, when information concerning an incident of
343 child abuse or neglect has been made public or the commissioner
344 reasonably believes publication of such information is likely, provided
345 such disclosure is limited to: (A) Whether the department has received
346 any report in accordance with sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive,
347 or section 17a-103; (B) in general terms, any action taken by the
348 department, provided: (i) Names or other individually identifiable
349 information of the child or other family members is not disclosed,
350 regardless of whether such individually identifiable information is
351 otherwise available, and (ii) the name or other individually identifiable

352 information of the person suspected to be responsible for the abuse or
353 neglect is not disclosed unless such person has been arrested for a
354 crime due to such abuse or neglect; (C) confirmation or denial of the
355 accuracy of information that has been made public; and (D)
356 notwithstanding the provisions of section 46b-124, in general terms,
357 the legal status of the case;

358 (14) Any individual for the purpose of locating such individual's
359 missing parent, child, [or youth,] sibling, aunt, uncle, first cousin or
360 grandparent, provided such disclosure is limited to information that
361 assists in locating such missing parent, child, [or youth] sibling, aunt,
362 uncle, first cousin or grandparent;

363 (15) Any individual, when the information concerns an incident of
364 abuse or neglect that resulted in a child or youth fatality or near
365 fatality of a child or youth, provided disclosure of such information is
366 in general terms and does not jeopardize a pending investigation;

367 (16) A judge of a court of competent jurisdiction whenever an
368 employee of the department is subpoenaed and ordered to testify
369 about such records for purposes of in camera inspection to determine
370 if such records may be disclosed pursuant to this section if (A) the
371 court has ordered that such records be provided to the court; or (B) a
372 party to the proceeding has issued a subpoena for such records;

373 (17) An individual who is not employed by the department who
374 arranges, performs or assists in performing functions or activities on
375 behalf of the department, including, but not limited to, data analysis,
376 processing or administration, utilization reviews, quality assurance,
377 practice management, consultation, data aggregation and accreditation
378 services.

379 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (e) to (h),
380 inclusive, of this section, the department may refuse to disclose records
381 to any individual, provided the department gives such individual
382 notice (1) that records are being withheld; (2) of the general nature of

383 the records being withheld; (3) of the department's reason for refusing
384 to disclose the records; and (4) of the individual's right to judicial relief
385 pursuant to subsection (j) of this section.

386 (j) (1) Any person or individual aggrieved by a violation of
387 subsection (b) or (d), subsections (f) to (h), inclusive, or subsection (k)
388 of this section, or a person's authorized representative, may seek
389 judicial relief in the manner prescribed in section 52-146j.

390 (2) Any person, individual or authorized representative denied
391 access to records by the commissioner under subdivision (i) of this
392 section may petition the superior court for the venue district provided
393 in section 46b-142 in which the person resides for an order requiring
394 the commissioner to permit access to those records, and the court, after
395 a hearing and an in camera review of the records in question, shall
396 issue such an order unless it determines that permitting disclosure of
397 all or any portion of the record (A) would be contrary to the best
398 interests of the person or the person's authorized representative; (B)
399 could reasonably result in the risk of harm to any individual; or (C)
400 would contravene the public policy of the state.

401 (k) All written records disclosed to an individual who is not the
402 subject of the record, an agency, an entity or an organization shall bear
403 a stamp requiring confidentiality in accordance with the provisions of
404 this section. Such records shall not be disclosed to another individual,
405 agency, entity or an organization without the written consent of the
406 person who is the subject of the record or as provided by this section.
407 A copy of the consent form, specifying to whom and for what specific
408 use the record is disclosed or a statement setting forth any other
409 statutory authorization for disclosure and the limitations imposed on
410 such disclosure, shall accompany the record. In cases where the
411 disclosure is made orally, the individual disclosing the information
412 shall inform the recipient that such information is governed by the
413 provisions of this section.

414 (l) Whenever any person, attorney or authorized representative,
415 having obtained access to any record, believes there are factually
416 inaccurate entries or materials contained in such record, such person,
417 attorney or authorized representative may add a statement to the
418 record setting forth what such person, attorney or authorized
419 representative believes to be an accurate statement of those facts and
420 such statement shall become a permanent part of the record.

421 (m) The Department of Children and Families may charge a
422 reasonable fee for any record disclosed pursuant to this section that
423 exceeds one hundred pages in length. Such fee shall be waived if the
424 individual requesting such record is indigent.

425 Sec. 2. Section 17a-117 of the general statutes is repealed and the
426 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

427 (a) The Department of Children and Families may, and is
428 encouraged to, contract with child-placing agencies to arrange for the
429 adoption of children who are free for adoption. If (1) a child for whom
430 adoption is indicated, cannot, after all reasonable efforts consistent
431 with the best interests of the child, be placed in adoption through
432 existing sources because the child is a special needs child, and (2) the
433 adopting family meets the standards for adoption which any other
434 adopting family meets, the Commissioner of Children and Families
435 shall, before adoption of such child by such family, certify such child
436 as a special needs child and, after adoption, provide one or more of the
437 following subsidies for the adopting parents: (A) A special-need
438 subsidy, which is a lump sum payment paid directly to the person
439 providing the required service, to pay for an anticipated expense
440 resulting from the adoption when no other resource is available for
441 such payment; or (B) a periodic subsidy which is a payment to the
442 adopting family; and (C) in addition to the subsidies granted under
443 this subsection, any medical benefits which are being provided prior to
444 final approval of the adoption by the superior court for juvenile
445 matters or the Probate Court in accordance with the fee schedule and

446 payment procedures under the state Medicaid program administered
447 by the Department of Social Services shall continue as long as the child
448 qualifies as a dependent of the adoptive parent under the provisions of
449 the Internal Revenue Code. The amount of a periodic subsidy shall not
450 exceed the current costs of foster maintenance care.

451 (b) A medical subsidy may continue until the child reaches twenty-
452 one years of age. A periodic subsidy may continue until the child
453 reaches age eighteen, except such periodic subsidy may continue for a
454 child who is at least eighteen years of age but less than twenty-one
455 years of age, provided: (1) The adoption was finalized on or after
456 October 1, 2013, (2) the child was sixteen years of age or older at the
457 time the adoption was finalized, and (3) the child is (A) enrolled in a
458 full-time approved secondary education program or an approved
459 program leading to an equivalent credential; (B) enrolled full time in
460 an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education; or
461 (C) participating full time in a program or activity approved by the
462 commissioner that is designed to promote or remove barriers to
463 employment. The commissioner, in his or her discretion, may waive
464 the provision of full-time enrollment or participation based on
465 compelling circumstances.

466 (c) The periodic subsidy is subject to review by the commissioner as
467 provided in section 17a-118, as amended by this act.

468 (d) Requests for subsidies after a final approval of the adoption by
469 the superior court for juvenile matters or the Probate Court may be
470 considered at the discretion of the commissioner for conditions
471 resulting from or directly related to the totality of circumstances
472 surrounding the child prior to placement in adoption. A written
473 certification of the need for a subsidy shall be made by the
474 commissioner in each case and the type, amount and duration of the
475 subsidy shall be mutually agreed to by the commissioner and the
476 adopting parents prior to the entry of such decree. Any subsidy
477 decision by the commissioner may be appealed by a licensed child-

478 placing agency or the adopting parent or parents to the [Subsidy
479 Review Board established under subsection (e) of this section]
480 department at a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions
481 of chapter 54. The commissioner shall adopt regulations establishing
482 the procedures for determining the amount and the need for a subsidy.

483 [(e) There is established a Subsidy Review Board to hear appeals
484 under this section, section 17a-118 and section 17a-120. The board shall
485 consist of the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
486 commissioner's designee, and a representative of a child-placing
487 agency and an adoptive parent appointed by the Governor. The
488 Governor shall appoint an alternate representative of a child-placing
489 agency and an alternate adoptive parent. Such alternative members
490 shall, when seated, have all the powers and duties set forth in this
491 section and sections 17a-118, 17a-120 and 17a-126. Whenever an
492 alternate member serves in place of a member of the board, such
493 alternate member shall represent the same interest as the member in
494 whose place such alternative member serves. All decisions of the board
495 shall be based on the best interest of the child. Appeals under this
496 section shall be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.]

497 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17a-118 of the general statutes is
498 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
499 *1, 2017*):

500 (a) There shall be a biennial review of the subsidy for a child under
501 eighteen years of age and an annual review for a child who is at least
502 eighteen years of age but less than twenty-one years of age. Such
503 reviews shall be conducted by the Commissioner of Children and
504 Families. The adoptive parents shall, at the time of such review, submit
505 a sworn statement that the condition which caused the child to be
506 certified as a special needs child or a related condition continues to
507 exist or has reoccurred and that the adoptive parent or parents are still
508 legally responsible for the support of the child and that the child is
509 receiving support from the adoptive family. A child who is at least

510 eighteen years of age but less than twenty-one years of age shall
 511 continue to receive an adoption subsidy, pursuant to section 17a-117,
 512 as amended by this act, provided his or her adoptive parent submits, at
 513 the time of the review, a sworn statement that the child is (1) enrolled
 514 in a full-time approved secondary education program or an approved
 515 program leading to an equivalent credential; (2) enrolled full time in
 516 an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education; or
 517 (3) participating full time in a program or activity approved by the
 518 commissioner that is designed to promote or remove barriers to
 519 employment. The commissioner, in his or her discretion, may waive
 520 the provision of full-time enrollment or participation based on
 521 compelling circumstances. The commissioner, or the commissioner's
 522 designee, may require that the adoptive parent or parents submit any
 523 additional documentation that the commissioner or designee deems
 524 necessary to complete such review. If the subsidy is to be terminated
 525 or reduced by the commissioner, notice of such proposed reduction or
 526 termination shall be given, in writing, to the adoptive parents and such
 527 adoptive parents shall, at least thirty days prior to the imposition of
 528 said reduction or termination, be [given] provided a hearing [before
 529 the Subsidy Review Board] by the department in accordance with the
 530 provisions of chapter 54. If such an appeal is taken, the subsidy shall
 531 continue without modification until the final decision of the [Subsidy
 532 Review Board] department.

533 Sec. 4. Section 17a-120 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 534 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

535 (a) Any child who is blind or physically disabled as defined by
 536 section 1-1f, mentally disabled, seriously emotionally maladjusted or
 537 has a recognized high risk of physical or mental disability as defined in
 538 the regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Children and Families
 539 pursuant to section 17a-118, as amended by this act, who is to be given
 540 or has been given in adoption by a statutory parent, as defined in
 541 section 45a-707, shall be eligible for a one hundred per cent medical
 542 expense subsidy in accordance with the fee schedule and payment

543 procedures under the state Medicaid program administered by the
544 Department of Social Services where such condition existed prior to
545 such adoption, provided such expenses are not reimbursed by health
546 insurance, or federal or state payments for health care. Application for
547 such subsidy shall be made to the Commissioner of Children and
548 Families by such child's adopting or adoptive parent or parents. Said
549 commissioner shall adopt regulations governing the procedures for
550 application and criteria for determination of the existence of such
551 condition. A written determination of eligibility shall be made by said
552 commissioner and may be made prior to or after identification of the
553 adopting parent or parents. Upon a finding of eligibility, an
554 application for such medical expense subsidy by the adopting or
555 adoptive parent or parents on behalf of the child shall be granted, and
556 such adopting or adoptive parent or parents shall be issued a medical
557 identification card for such child by the Department of Children and
558 Families for the purpose of providing for payment for the medical
559 expense subsidy. The subsidy set forth in this section shall not
560 preclude the granting of either subsidy set forth in section 17a-117, as
561 amended by this act, except, if the child is eligible for subsidy under
562 this section, the child's adopting parent or parents shall not be granted
563 a subsidy or subsidies set forth in section 17a-117, as amended by this
564 act, that would be granted for the same purposes as the child's
565 subsidy.

566 (b) There shall be an annual review of the medical expense subsidy
567 set forth in subsection (a) of this section by the Commissioner of
568 Children and Families. If, upon such annual review, the commissioner
569 determines that the child continues to have a condition for which the
570 subsidy was granted or has medical conditions related to such
571 condition, and that the adoptive parent or parents are still legally
572 responsible for the support of the child and that the child is receiving
573 support from the adoptive family, the commissioner shall not
574 terminate or reduce such subsidy. If the condition is corrected and
575 conditions related to it no longer exist, or if the adoptive parent or

576 parents are no longer legally responsible for the support of the child or
 577 if the child is no longer receiving any support from the adoptive
 578 family, the commissioner may reduce or terminate eligibility for such
 579 subsidy. If, following such reduction or termination, such condition or
 580 related conditions reoccur, the adopting or adoptive parent or parents
 581 may reapply for such subsidy. Upon receipt of such application and
 582 determination that such condition or related conditions have
 583 reoccurred, the commissioner shall grant such subsidy provided the
 584 adoptive parent or parents are still legally responsible for the support
 585 of the child or the child is receiving support from the adoptive family.
 586 If the subsidy is to be reduced or terminated by said commissioner,
 587 notice of such proposed reduction or termination shall be given, in
 588 writing, to the adoptive parent or parents and such adoptive parent or
 589 parents shall, at least thirty days prior to the imposition of said
 590 reduction or termination, be [given a hearing before the Subsidy
 591 Review Board] provided a hearing by the department in accordance
 592 with the provisions of chapter 54. If such an appeal is taken, the
 593 subsidy shall continue without modification or termination until the
 594 final decision of the [Subsidy Review Board] department. Eligibility for
 595 such subsidy may continue until the child's twenty-first birthday if the
 596 condition that caused the child to be certified as a special needs child
 597 or related conditions continue to exist or have reoccurred and the child
 598 continues to qualify as a dependent of the legal adoptive parent under
 599 the Internal Revenue Code. In no case shall the eligibility for such
 600 subsidy continue beyond the child's twenty-first birthday.

601 Sec. 5. Section 17a-126 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 602 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

603 (a) As used in this section, (1) "caregiver" means (A) a fictive kin
 604 caregiver, as defined in section 17a-114, who is licensed or approved to
 605 provide foster care, and who is caring for a child, (B) a relative
 606 caregiver, which means a person who is twenty-one years of age or
 607 older, related to a child by birth, adoption or marriage and is licensed
 608 or approved to provide foster care, or (C) a person who is a licensed or

609 approved foster care provider pursuant to section 17a-114 and is
610 caring for a child because the parent of the child has died or become
611 otherwise unable to care for the child for reasons that make
612 reunification with the parent and adoption not viable options within
613 the foreseeable future, and (2) "commissioner" means the
614 Commissioner of Children and Families.

615 (b) The commissioner shall establish a program of subsidized
616 guardianship for the benefit of children who have been in foster care
617 for not less than six consecutive months, for whom neither
618 reunification with a parent nor adoption is an appropriate permanency
619 option, and who have been living with a caregiver. A caregiver may
620 request a guardianship subsidy from the commissioner.

621 (c) If a caregiver who is receiving a guardianship subsidy for a child
622 is also caring for the child's sibling, the commissioner shall provide a
623 guardianship subsidy to such caregiver in accordance with regulations
624 adopted by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.
625 For purposes of this subsection, "child's sibling" includes a stepbrother,
626 stepsister, a half-brother or a half-sister.

627 (d) The commissioner shall provide the following subsidies under
628 the subsidized guardianship program in accordance with this section
629 and the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (e) of this section:
630 (1) A special-need subsidy, which shall be a lump sum payment for
631 one-time expenses resulting from the assumption of care of the child
632 and shall not exceed two thousand dollars; and (2) a medical subsidy
633 comparable to the medical subsidy to children in the subsidized
634 adoption program. The subsidized guardianship program shall also
635 provide a monthly subsidy on behalf of the child payable to the
636 caregiver that is based on the circumstances of the caregiver and the
637 needs of the child and shall not exceed the foster care maintenance
638 payment that would have been paid on behalf of the child if the child
639 had remained in licensed foster care.

640 (e) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
641 chapter 54, implementing the subsidized guardianship program
642 established under this section. Such regulations shall include all
643 federal requirements necessary to maximize federal reimbursement
644 available to the state, including, but not limited to, (1) eligibility for the
645 program, (2) the maximum age at which a child is no longer eligible for
646 a guardianship subsidy, including the maximum age, for purposes of
647 claiming federal reimbursement under Title IV-E of the Social Security
648 Act, at which a child is no longer eligible for a guardianship subsidy,
649 and (3) a procedure for determining the types and amounts of the
650 subsidies.

651 [(f) (1) At a minimum, the guardianship subsidy provided under
652 this section shall continue until the child reaches the age of eighteen or
653 the age of twenty-one if such child is in full-time attendance at a
654 secondary school, technical school or college or is in a state accredited
655 job training program or otherwise meets the criteria set forth in federal
656 law.

657 (2)] (f) (1) A guardianship subsidy, provided pursuant to this
658 section, may be provided for a child, subject to the commissioner's
659 annual review, through his or her twenty-first birthday, provided [:
660 (A) The transfer of guardianship to a successor guardian, as provided
661 in subsection (i) of this section, was finalized on or after October 1,
662 2013; (B) the child was sixteen years of age or older when such transfer
663 was finalized; and (C)] the child is [(i)] (A) enrolled in a full-time
664 approved secondary education program or an approved program
665 leading to an equivalent credential, [(ii)] (B) enrolled full time in an
666 institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education, or
667 [(iii)] (C) participating full time in a program or activity approved by
668 the commissioner that is designed to promote or remove barriers to
669 employment. The commissioner, in his or her discretion, may waive
670 the provision of full-time enrollment or participation based on
671 compelling circumstances. To receive a guardianship subsidy pursuant
672 to this subsection, the guardian shall, at the time of the annual review,

673 submit to the commissioner a sworn statement that the child is still
674 meeting the requirements of [clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (C)
675 of this subdivision] subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of this
676 subdivision, provided the commissioner, in his or her discretion, may
677 waive such requirements based on compelling circumstances.

678 [(3)] (2) Annually, the subsidized guardian shall submit to the
679 commissioner a sworn statement that the child is still living with and
680 receiving support from the guardian. The commissioner, or the
681 commissioner's designee, may require that the subsidized guardian
682 submit any additional documentation that the commissioner or
683 designee deems necessary for the purpose of determining whether
684 such child is still living with and receiving support from the
685 subsidized guardian. The parent of any child receiving assistance
686 through the subsidized guardianship program shall remain liable for
687 the support of the child as required by the general statutes.

688 (g) A guardianship subsidy shall not be included in the calculation
689 of household income in determining eligibility for benefits of the
690 caregiver of the subsidized child or other persons living within the
691 household of the caregiver.

692 (h) Payments for guardianship subsidies shall be made from
693 moneys available from any source to the commissioner for child
694 welfare purposes. The commissioner shall develop and implement a
695 plan that: (1) Maximizes use of the subsidized guardianship program
696 to decrease the number of children in the legal custody of the
697 commissioner and to reduce the number of children who would
698 otherwise be placed into nonrelative foster care when there is a
699 caregiver willing to provide care; (2) maximizes federal reimbursement
700 for the costs of the subsidized guardianship program, provided
701 whatever federal maximization method is employed shall not result in
702 the caregiver of a child being subject to work requirements as a
703 condition of receipt of benefits for the child or the benefits restricted in
704 time or scope other than as specified in subsection (c) of this section;

705 and (3) ensures necessary transfers of funds between agencies and
706 interagency coordination in program implementation. The
707 commissioner shall seek all federal waivers and reimbursement as are
708 necessary and appropriate to implement this plan.

709 (i) In the case of the death, severe disability or serious illness of a
710 caregiver who is receiving a guardianship subsidy, the commissioner
711 may transfer the guardianship subsidy to a successor guardian who
712 meets the department's foster care safety requirements and who is
713 appointed as legal guardian by a court of competent jurisdiction. For
714 purposes of maximizing federal reimbursement for the costs of the
715 subsidized guardianship program, the commissioner shall request that
716 the caregiver identify such successor guardian in the subsidy
717 agreement and any addendum thereto.

718 (j) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the commissioner from
719 continuing to pay guardianship subsidies to those relative caregivers
720 who entered into written subsidy agreements with the Department of
721 Children and Families prior to October 5, 2009.

722 (k) Not less than thirty days prior to the termination or reduction of
723 a guardianship subsidy, the commissioner shall (1) provide written
724 notice of such reduction or termination to the caregiver receiving such
725 subsidy, and (2) provide such caregiver with a hearing before the
726 [Subsidy Review Board] department in accordance with the provisions
727 of chapter 54. If such an appeal is taken, the subsidy shall continue
728 without modification until the final decision of the [Subsidy Review
729 Board] department.

730 Sec. 6. Section 17a-101i of the general statutes is repealed and the
731 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

732 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, not later
733 than five working days after an investigation of a report that a child
734 has been abused or neglected by a school employee, as defined in
735 section 53a-65, or that a person is a victim, as described in subdivision

736 (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a, of a school employee has been
737 completed, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall notify the
738 employing superintendent and the Commissioner of Education of the
739 results of such investigation and shall provide records, whether or not
740 created by the department, concerning such investigation to the
741 superintendent and the Commissioner of Education. The
742 Commissioner of Children and Families shall provide such notice
743 whether or not the child or victim was a student in the employing
744 school or school district. If the Commissioner of Children and Families,
745 based upon the results of the investigation, has reasonable cause to
746 believe that (1) (A) a child has been abused or neglected, as described
747 in section 46b-120, by such employee, and (B) the commissioner
748 recommends such school employee be placed on the child abuse and
749 neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-101k, or (2) a
750 person is a victim, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
751 section 17a-101a, of such school employee, the superintendent shall
752 suspend such school employee. Such suspension shall be with pay and
753 shall not result in the diminution or termination of benefits to such
754 employee. Not later than seventy-two hours after such suspension the
755 superintendent shall notify the local or regional board of education
756 and the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
757 representative, of the reasons for and conditions of the suspension. The
758 superintendent shall disclose such records to the Commissioner of
759 Education and the local or regional board of education or its attorney
760 for purposes of review of employment status or the status of such
761 employee's certificate, permit or authorization. The suspension of a
762 school employee employed in a position requiring a certificate shall
763 remain in effect until the board of education acts pursuant to the
764 provisions of section 10-151. If the contract of employment of such
765 certified school employee is terminated, or such certified school
766 employee resigns such employment, the superintendent shall notify
767 the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's representative,
768 within seventy-two hours after such termination or resignation. Upon
769 receipt of such notice from the superintendent, the Commissioner of

770 Education may commence certification revocation proceedings
771 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (i) of section 10-145b.
772 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1-210 and 1-211,
773 information received by the Commissioner of Education, or the
774 commissioner's representative, pursuant to this section shall be
775 confidential subject to regulations adopted by the State Board of
776 Education under section 10-145g. No local or regional board of
777 education shall employ a person whose employment contract is
778 terminated or who resigned from employment following a suspension
779 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection if such person is
780 convicted of a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as
781 described in section 46b-120 or a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a,
782 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a against any person who is being
783 educated by the technical high school system or a local or regional
784 board of education, other than as part of an adult education program.

785 (b) Not later than five working days after an investigation of a
786 report that a child has been abused or neglected by a staff member of a
787 public or private institution or facility that provides care for children
788 or a private school has been completed, the Commissioner of Children
789 and Families shall notify such staff member's employer at such
790 institution, facility or school, or such employer's designee, of the
791 results of the investigation. If (1) the Commissioner of Children and
792 Families, based upon the results of the investigation, has reasonable
793 cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected by such staff
794 member, and (2) the commissioner recommends that such staff
795 member be placed on the child abuse and neglect registry established
796 pursuant to section 17a-101k, such institution, facility or school shall
797 suspend such staff person. Such suspension shall be with pay and shall
798 not result in diminution or termination of benefits to such staff person.
799 Such suspension shall remain in effect until the incident of abuse or
800 neglect has been satisfactorily resolved by the employer of the staff
801 person or until an appeal, conducted in accordance with section 17a-
802 101k, has resulted in a finding that such staff person is not responsible

803 for the abuse or neglect or does not pose a risk to the health, safety or
804 well-being of children.

805 (c) If [such] a school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, or a
806 staff member described in subsection (b) of this section has a
807 professional license or certificate issued by the state or a permit or
808 authorization issued by the State Board of Education or if [such] the
809 institution, school or facility employing the school employee or staff
810 member has a license or approval issued by the state, the
811 commissioner shall forthwith notify the state agency responsible for
812 issuing such license, certificate, permit, approval or authorization [to
813 the staff member] of the results of any investigation described in
814 subsection (a) or (b) of this section pertaining to such school employee
815 or staff member and provide records, whether or not created by the
816 department, concerning such investigation.

817 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) If a school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, or any
818 person holding a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State
819 Board of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-149,
820 inclusive, is convicted of a crime involving an act of child abuse or
821 neglect as described in section 46b-120 or a violation of subdivision (2)
822 of subsection (b) of section 17a-101a or section 53-21, 53a-71 or 53a-73a
823 against any person, or a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-72a or
824 53a-72b against a victim, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection
825 (a) of section 17a-101a, the state's attorney for the judicial district in
826 which the conviction occurred shall in writing notify the
827 superintendent of the school district or the supervisory agent of the
828 nonpublic school in which the person is employed and the
829 Commissioner of Education of such conviction.

830 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) For the purposes of receiving and making reports, notifying
831 and receiving notification, or investigating, pursuant to the provisions
832 of sections 17a-101a to 17a-101h, inclusive, and 17a-103, a
833 superintendent of a school district or a supervisory agent of a
834 nonpublic school may assign a designee to act on such

835 superintendent's or agent's behalf.

836 [(e)] (f) On or before February 1, 2016, each local and regional board
837 of education shall adopt a written policy, in accordance with the
838 provisions of subsection (d) of section 17a-101, regarding the reporting
839 by school employees, as defined in section 53a-65, of suspected child
840 abuse or neglect in accordance with sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d,
841 inclusive, and 17a-103 or a violation of section 53-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71,
842 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a against a victim, as described in
843 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section [17a-101i] 17a-101a. Such
844 policy shall be distributed annually to all school employees employed
845 by the local or regional board of education. The local or regional board
846 of education shall document that all such school employees have
847 received such written policy and completed the training and refresher
848 training programs required by subsection (c) of section 17a-101, as
849 amended by this act.

850 [(f)] (g) (1) Each school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, hired
851 by a local or regional board of education on or after July 1, 2011, shall
852 be required to complete the training program developed pursuant to
853 subsection (c) of section 17a-101, as amended by this act. Each such
854 school employee shall complete the refresher training program,
855 developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 17a-101, as amended
856 by this act, not later than three years after completion of the initial
857 training program, and shall thereafter retake such refresher training
858 course at least once every three years.

859 (2) On or before July 1, 2012, each school employee, as defined in
860 section 53a-65, hired by a local or regional board of education before
861 July 1, 2011, shall complete the refresher training program developed
862 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 17a-101, as amended by this act,
863 and shall thereafter retake such refresher training course at least once
864 every three years.

865 (3) The principal for each school under the jurisdiction of a local or

866 regional board of education shall annually certify to the
867 superintendent for the board of education that each school employee,
868 as defined in section 53a-65, working at such school, is in compliance
869 with the provisions of this subsection. The superintendent shall certify
870 such compliance to the State Board of Education.

871 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 17a-101 of the general statutes is
872 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
873 *1, 2017*):

874 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop an
875 educational training program and refresher training program for the
876 accurate and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and
877 neglect. Such training program and refresher training program shall be
878 made available to all persons mandated to report child abuse and
879 neglect at various times and locations throughout the state as
880 determined by the Commissioner of Children and Families. Such
881 training program and refresher training program shall be provided in
882 accordance with the provisions of subsection [(f)] (g) of section 17a-
883 101i, as amended by this act, to each school employee, as defined in
884 section 53a-65, within available appropriations.

885 Sec. 8. Section 17a-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the
886 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

887 (a) No person or entity shall care for or board a child without a
888 license obtained from the Commissioner of Children and Families,
889 except: (1) When a child has been placed by a person or entity holding
890 a license from the commissioner; (2) any residential educational
891 institution exempted by the State Board of Education under the
892 provisions of section 17a-152; (3) residential facilities licensed by the
893 Department of Developmental Services pursuant to section 17a-227; (4)
894 facilities providing child care services, as defined in section 19a-77; or
895 (5) any home that houses students participating in a program
896 described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (8) of section 10a-29. The

897 person or entity seeking a child care facility license shall file with the
898 commissioner an application for a license, in such form as the
899 commissioner furnishes, stating the location where it is proposed to
900 care for such child, the number of children to be cared for, in the case
901 of a corporation, the purpose of the corporation and the names of its
902 chief officers and of the actual person responsible for the child. The
903 Commissioner of Children and Families is authorized to fix the
904 maximum number of children to be boarded and cared for in any such
905 home or institution or by any person or entity licensed by the
906 commissioner. If the population served at any facility, institution or
907 home operated by any person or entity licensed under this section
908 changes after such license is issued, such person or entity shall file a
909 new license application with the commissioner, and the commissioner
910 shall notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in which the
911 facility is located of such new license application, except that no
912 confidential client information may be disclosed.

913 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall adopt
914 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, setting
915 forth standards for the licensing of child care facilities. Such
916 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, minimum standards for
917 (1) the physical requirements of such facilities, (2) the care and
918 treatment of children cared for or boarded in such facilities, and (3) the
919 staffing of such facilities.

920 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Each person or entity licensed by the commissioner
921 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall designate an on-site staff
922 member who shall apply a reasonable and prudent parent standard, as
923 defined in subsection (a) of section 17a-114d, on behalf of the child.

924 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall not be
925 responsible for the licensing of any facility that does not board or care
926 for children or youths under eighteen years of age.

927 Sec. 9. Section 17a-150 of the general statutes is repealed and the

928 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

929 [(a)] The Commissioner of Children and Families shall adopt
 930 regulations in accordance with chapter 54 setting forth standards for
 931 licensing of [persons or entities which place children] child-placing
 932 agencies, as defined in section 17a-93. [The] Such regulations shall
 933 [require a person or entity licensed on or after March 9, 1984, to]
 934 include, but not be limited to, (1) the requirement that a child-placing
 935 agency shall (A) have a minimum of two staff persons who are
 936 qualified by a combination of education and work experience, and (B)
 937 be a nonprofit organization qualified as a tax-exempt organization
 938 under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
 939 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,
 940 as from time to time amended, and minimum standards for homes in
 941 which children may be placed.

942 [(b) Said commissioner shall adopt regulations prescribing the
 943 minimum standards for homes in which children may be placed.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-28
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-117
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-118(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-120
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-126
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-101i
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-101(c)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-145
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	17a-150

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require or permit the Department of Children and Families to disclose certain records to certain individuals and entities without the consent of the persons who are the subjects of such records, (2) permit such department to charge a fee for the disclosure of certain records exceeding one hundred pages in length, (3) eliminate such

department's Subsidy Review Board and replace such board with the provision of a hearing in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, (4) require the Commissioner of Children and Families to notify certain agencies of child abuse and neglect investigations pertaining to certain employees of such agencies, and (5) require such commissioner to adopt regulations setting forth standards for the licensing of child care facilities and child-placing agencies.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]